

(1) A detailed biographical resume which contains information relating to education, employment, and achievements;

(2) Financial information, in such specificity as the Committee deems necessary, including a list of assets and liabilities of the nominee and tax returns for the 3 years preceding the time of his or her nomination, and copies of other relevant documents requested by the Committee, such as a proposed blind trust agreement, necessary for the Committee's consideration; and,

(3) Copies of other relevant documents the Committee may request, such as responses to questions concerning the policies and programs the nominee intends to pursue upon taking office. At the request of the Chairman or the Ranking Minority Member, a nominee shall be required to submit a certified financial statement compiled by an independent auditor. Information received pursuant to this subsection shall be made available for public inspection; provided, however, that tax returns shall, after review by persons designated in subsection (C) of this rule, be placed under seal to ensure confidentiality.

C. Procedures for Committee inquiry. The Committee shall conduct an inquiry into the experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity of nominees, and shall give particular attention to the following matters:

(1) A review of the biographical information provided by the nominee, including, but not limited to, any professional activities related to the duties of the office to which he or she is nominated;

(2) A review of the financial information provided by the nominee, including tax returns for the 3 years preceding the time of his or her nomination;

(3) A review of any actions, taken or proposed by the nominee, to remedy conflicts of interest; and

(4) A review of any personal or legal matter which may bear upon the nominee's qualifications for the office to which he or she is nominated. For the purpose of assisting the Committee in the conduct of this inquiry, a Majority investigator or investigators shall be designated by the Chairman and a Minority investigator or investigators shall be designated by the Ranking Minority Member. The Chairman, Ranking Minority Member, other Members of the Committee, and designated investigators shall have access to all investigative reports on nominees prepared by any Federal agency, except that only the Chairman, the Ranking Minority Member, or other Members of the Committee, upon request, shall have access to the report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Committee may request the assistance of the General Accounting Office and any other such expert opinion as may be necessary in conducting its review of information provided by nominees.

D. Report on the Nominee. After a review of all information pertinent to the nomination, a confidential report on the nominee shall be made in the case of judicial nominees and may be made in the case of non-judicial nominees by the designated investigators to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member and, upon request, to any other Member of the Committee. The report shall summarize the steps taken by the Committee during its investigation of the nominee and the results of the Committee inquiry, including any unresolved matters that have been raised during the course of the inquiry.

E. Hearings. The Committee shall conduct a public hearing during which the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to his or her suitability for office, including the policies and programs which he or she will pursue while in that position. No hearing shall be held until at least

72 hours after the following events have occurred: The nominee has responded to pre-hearing questions submitted by the Committee; and, if applicable, the report described in subsection (D) has been made to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, and is available to other Members of the Committee, upon request.

F. Action on confirmation. A mark-up on a nomination shall not occur on the same day that the hearing on the nominee is held. In order to assist the Committee in reaching a recommendation on confirmation, the staff may make an oral presentation to the Committee at the mark-up, factually summarizing the nominee's background and the steps taken during the pre-hearing inquiry.

G. Application. The procedures contained in subsections (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this rule shall apply to persons nominated by the President to positions requiring their full-time service. At the discretion of the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, those procedures may apply to persons nominated by the President to serve on a part-time basis.

RULE 9. PERSONNEL ACTIONS AFFECTING COMMITTEE STAFF

In accordance with Rule XLII of the Standing Rules of the Senate and the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-1), all personnel actions affecting the staff of the Committee shall be made free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, state of physical handicap, or disability.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY AUTREY

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a resolution I submitted on January 8 in recognition of the uncommon valor and tremendous bravery demonstrated by New York City resident Wesley Autrey.

On January 2, 2007, Mr. Autrey and others stood on a platform in the 137th Street subway station in Harlem, and watched as a young man suffering from a seizure fell onto the train tracks. Terrified by what he saw, Mr. Autrey heroically dove down onto the tracks, putting his own life in grave danger to save that of a stranger. Mr. Autrey covered the young man in the trough between the tracks as the incoming train screamed to a halt just inches above his head.

Later, when asked about the courageous rescue, Mr. Autrey responded humbly, saying, "I'm not looking at this like I'm the hero, cause the real heroes are the young men and women that are fighting in Iraq now. What I did is something that any New Yorker should do . . . if you see somebody in distress, do the right thing."

We could all learn from Wesley Autrey's example. A proud member of the Construction and General Building Laborers' Local 79, a veteran of the United States Navy, and a father of two young girls, Mr. Autrey—in both his heroic actions and his humble conduct in the midst of his newfound fame—represents values that all Americans should cherish and respect. His selflessness should be held up as an example to those in his community, his state and his country.

Indeed, this resolution is just one fitting way in which to honor the uncommon

valor and tremendous bravery demonstrated by Wesley Autrey when he dove in front of an incoming train to save the life of a stranger on January 2. I am hopeful that my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me in honoring Mr. Autrey by moving this legislation as expeditiously as possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MADELEINE COOPER TAYLOR

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to publicly congratulate Ms. Madeleine Cooper Taylor on her recent appointment as a member of the city council of Memphis, TN. Last Tuesday, she was appointed unanimously by the council to serve the remaining term of council member TaJuan Stout Mitchell.

Ms. Taylor has worked as a program coordinator for the Memphis branch of the NAACP since 1991 and is a lifelong Memphian.

Now, I am not normally in the habit of coming to the Senate floor to congratulate a new city council member, especially one who is not from my home State of Delaware. But this is no normal circumstance. Madeleine Cooper Taylor is the mother of Reagan Taylor, an attorney and presidential management fellow whom I have been fortunate enough to have on my staff for the past 6 months.

During her rotation on my Judiciary Committee staff, Reagan has made an invaluable contribution to legal and drug policy for our country. Thanks to her efforts, we have succeeded in reauthorizing the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and our fight against the scourge of methamphetamine has been bolstered. And even though she is scheduled to rotate out of my office at the end of this month, as we speak she is hard at work improving security for our State and local courts and better utilizing DNA as a powerful tool in solving horrendous crimes.

While Reagan tirelessly works to make our communities safer through her efforts on the Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, Councilwoman Taylor stated in one of her first public statements after her appointment that she is concerned about crime in her community. As the old saying goes, the apple does not fall far from the tree.

It has been my pleasure to have Reagan Taylor on my staff over these past months, and it is my distinct honor to congratulate Madeleine Cooper Taylor on her new public office. I wish them both the best of luck in their future endeavors. •

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID MEUNIER

• Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to honor David Russell Meunier of Bellevue, NE.